

Lois Ann Day, Director**Authorized Signature****Number:** CW-IM-12-006**Issue Date:** 04/16/2012**Topic:** Other

New DHS Websites for Foster Parents and Relative Caregivers and for
Subject: Independent Living Program Services.

Applies to (check all that apply):

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> All DHS employees | <input type="checkbox"/> County Mental Health Directors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Area Agencies on Aging | <input type="checkbox"/> Health Services |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Children, Adults and Families | <input type="checkbox"/> Seniors and People with Disabilities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> County DD Program Managers | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): |

Message:

1) DHS Child Welfare certified foster parents and relative caregivers now have a website dedicated to providing these caregivers with a variety of up-to-date information:

- Department news
- Links to a variety of resources
- Current articles regarding
 - Foster parenting
 - Understanding and managing challenging behaviors which are the aftermath of children who have been abused and neglected; and
 - Information relevant to the services they provide as a caregiver.
- A county map of Oregon; each county, when clicked will display current scheduled trainings, special events and a contact person.

The Department will use this new website to recognize foster parents and relative caregivers during May, National Foster Care Month. To achieve this, we are asking branch Program Managers, supervisors, caseworkers and certifiers to take this opportunity to recognize a foster family or relative provider publicly on the website. Some suggested topics:

- a special provider in your branch who regularly extends themselves for the benefit of the children in their care;
- a provider who has done an exceptional job helping a child transition home or to another permanent placement;

- a certified foster or relative provider who has extended themselves to a parent contributing to a successful outcome; or
- simply a foster or relative provider who has a great sense of humor, is well respected for providing a caring and loving home to foster children.

In the event we receive a great number of recognitions during the month of May, we will regularly update the site with new recognitions and archive all recognitions so they will continue to be available to read. Please e-mail all foster and relative provider recognitions to Janet Williams; Janet.WILLIAMS@dhs.oregon.gov

The website can be found at: www.oregon.gov/DHS/children/fosterparent (copy and paste to the internet address field). When you reach the website you are able to sign up to receive notifications when new material has been posted on the web site.

2) The second website being released is for the Independent Living Program which will be a core tool in assisting Child Welfare staff, Foster Parents, Independent Living Providers, and Youth in the successful transition to adulthood. The reader will find information about;

- General Program Overview
- Eligibility & Services
- Contractors
- Higher Education/Financial Aid
- Resources
- State Advisory Committee

http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/children/fostercare/ind_living/ilp.shtml

Together these two tools pull together many efforts initiated by local branch offices, department program staff, foster parents and youth groups to better support children and youth and the people who care for them.

If you have any questions about this information, contact:

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